Grade 3

Your first case starts here.

The Borrowed Bamboo Chime

A complete mystery to print, solve and enjoy.

By Roberta Spring

1. Read the case briefing and meet the suspects.

2. Work through all five clues. Cross suspects off as the evidence rules them out.

3. Complete your case report, then check the worked answers.

You will need: a pencil, an eraser and some paper for working out. An adult can help with reading the instructions.

This sample is one complete case from the supplied Grade 3 book. The bonus letter for the full-book final mystery is optional; you do not need it to solve this case.

Print at actual size (100%) on US Letter paper. On A4, choose Fit. Print only the case pages if you want to save paper; the answers begin after the STOP page.

Explore the Grade 3 books at BrainBoxBooks.shop

CASE #01 · WIND-CHIME WORKSHOP

THE BORROWED BAMBOO CHIME

Wake up your clue skills, super sleuth, because it is investigation time! The bamboo chime vanished from the bamboo bench during a perfectly normal day. Show your number skills, solve the clues, and cross off the suspects!

MISSING: BAMBOO CHIME

LAST SEEN: BAMBOO BENCH

DIFFICULTY	MISSION TIME	MATH SKILLS
★★☆☆	~40 min	5

THE SUSPECTS



SUSPECT 1
CAMILA · the Metal shaper
Plays: HOCKEY · Badge: GEM



SUSPECT 2
SURI · the Ribbon weaver
Plays: DRUMS · Badge: BOLT



SUSPECT 3
JONAH · the Bamboo carver
Plays: CRICKET · Badge: BOLT



SUSPECT 4
JORI · the Bead sorter
Plays: CHESS · Badge: GEM



SUSPECT 5
IRA · the Parcel packer
Plays: TENNIS · Badge: CROWN



SUSPECT 6
EMIL · the Balcony sweeper
Plays: SOCCER · Badge: FLAME



SUSPECT 7
JADA · the Garden listener
Plays: HOCKEY · Badge: BOLT



SUSPECT 8
KENJI · the Master tuner
Plays: DRUMS · Badge: BOLT

YOUR CLUES

CLUE 1 · MULTIPLY & ADD **CLUE 2 · MAPS & SCALE** **CLUE 3 · COORDINATES & GRIDS**
CLUE 4 · ELAPSED TIME **CLUE 5 · MONEY MATH**

Solve each clue sheet and cross suspects off. The last name standing is your culprit!

CASE #01 · WIND-CHIME WORKSHOP

CLUE 1 OF 5

MULTIPLY & ADD

TOTAL THE BICYCLE BADGES

The culprit collected plenty. Cross off every suspect with FEWER than 60 wind points.

WORK OUT EVERY SUSPECT

CAMILA
4 × 2 + 15 = _____

IRA
2 × 3 + 61 = _____

SURI
9 × 4 + 42 = _____

EMIL
3 × 5 + 76 = _____

JONAH
9 × 6 + 22 = _____

JADA
7 × 9 + 20 = _____

JORI
8 × 2 + 5 = _____

KENJI
2 × 3 + 83 = _____

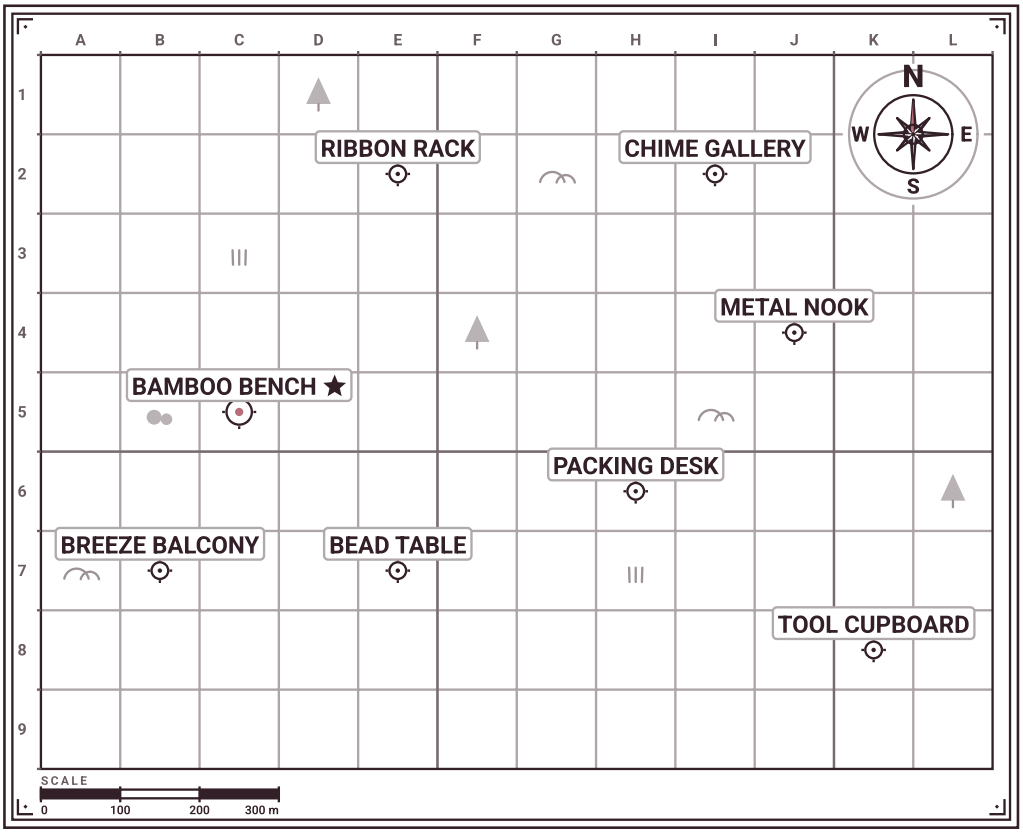
Do the math, then cross off every suspect the rule catches!

CLUE 2 OF 5

MAPS & SCALE

TRACE THE GEAR TRAIL

Track the bicycle trail until it ends at the culprit's hiding spot, then cross off every suspect found somewhere else.



THE TRAIL

Start at the BAMBOO BENCH ★

1. Go 6 × 50 m EAST
2. Go 5 × 60 m EAST
3. Go 4 × 25 m SOUTH
4. Go 88 + 12 m WEST

WHO WAS SEEN WHERE?

CAMILA	RIBBON RACK
SURI	PACKING DESK
JONAH	PACKING DESK
JORI	BEAD TABLE
IRA	METAL NOOK
EMIL	PACKING DESK
JADA	PACKING DESK
KENJI	PACKING DESK

Trace the trail on the map, find where it ends, and cross off everyone seen elsewhere!

CLUE 3 OF 5

COORDINATES & GRIDS

SCAN THE WORKSHOP GRID

Scan the gear room until the scanner locks a sector that names the badge, then cross off every suspect who has the wrong badge.

SOLVE THE READINGS

A. 7 + 1 = ☐

B. 1 + 1 = ☐

C. 2 + 2 = ☐

D. 3 + 1 = ☐

E. 1 + 4 = ☐

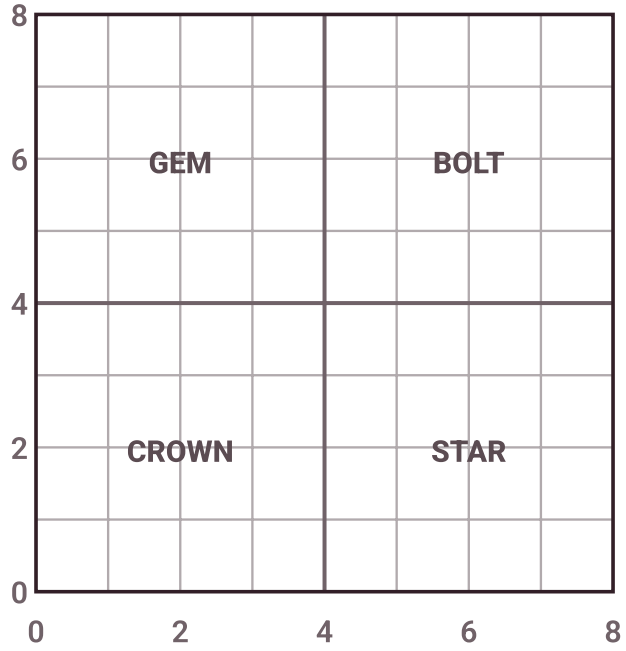
F. 2 + 1 = ☐

NOW FIND THE POINT

x = A + B - C = ☐

y = D + E - F = ☐

PLOT THE BEACON



Plot your point, read the sector it lands in, then cross off every suspect with a different badge!

CLUE 4 OF 5

ELAPSED TIME

TIME THE ROBOT TEST

Witnesses cleared everyone who left early. Cross off every suspect who finished BEFORE 1:00 PM!

WHEN DID EACH SUSPECT FINISH?

Camila started a science club at 4:30 PM. It lasted 30 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Suri started a swimming class at 10:30 AM. It lasted 105 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Jonah started an art workshop at 2:00 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Jori started a dance class at 12:45 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Ira started a swimming class at 1:30 PM. It lasted 75 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Emil started a baking session at 3:15 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Jada started soccer practice at 12:45 PM. It lasted 60 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Kenji started soccer practice at 3:15 PM. It lasted 75 minutes. Finish time: ___ _____

Do the math, then cross off every suspect the rule catches!

CLUE 5 OF 5

MONEY MATH

UNLOCK THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

E. $10.95 + $2.45 = _____

U. $1.80 − $0.95 = _____

Y. $9.65 + $3.40 = _____

R. $4.05 + $3.45 = _____

H. $11.35 + $1.30 = _____

P. $27.00 − $14.40 = _____

C. $6.70 + $1.20 = _____

T. $31.80 + $5.75 = _____

K. $31.50 + $20.95 = _____

I. $19.70 + $9.80 = _____

S. $4.65 + $3.30 = _____

A. $32.35 + $1.45 = _____

L. $2.60 − $1.70 = _____

CRACK THE CODE

Write each problem's letter in every box that shows its answer.

Self-check: if the boxes spell a real clue sentence, your math is correct!

$37.55	$12.65	$13.40	$7.90	$0.85	$0.90	$12.60	$7.50	$29.50	$37.55	
$12.60	$0.90	$33.80	$13.05	$7.95	$7.90	$7.50	$29.50	$7.90	$52.45	$13.40	$37.55

Now cross off every suspect this clue rules out!

CASE #01 · WIND-CHIME WORKSHOP

CASE REPORT

The bamboo chime vanished from the bamboo bench. You worked the clues, detective — time to name the culprit.

FINAL CHECK

- [ ] CAMILA · the Metal shaper
- [ ] SURI · the Ribbon weaver
- [ ] JONAH · the Bamboo carver
- [ ] JORI · the Bead sorter
- [ ] IRA · the Parcel packer
- [ ] EMIL · the Balcony sweeper
- [ ] JADA · the Garden listener
- [ ] KENJI · the Master tuner

THE CULPRIT IS: _____

SHOW YOUR REASONING

Which clue ruled out the most suspects? Clue ____

Name one suspect it cleared — and why the rule caught them:

- [ ] **My culprit is the ONLY suspect still standing after all 5 clues.**

SECRET LETTER for The Final Mystery → T

CASE CLOSED

STOP, DETECTIVE!

The worked answers begin on the next page.

Finish your case report before turning over. The following pages reveal the culprit and show the completed clues.

Parents and grandparents: keep these pages separate if your young detective would like to solve the case independently.

CLUE 1 OF 5

MULTIPLY & ADD

TOTAL THE BICYCLE BADGES

The culprit collected plenty. Cross off every suspect with FEWER than 60 wind points.

WORK OUT EVERY SUSPECT

~~**CAMILA**~~
4 × 2 + 15 = 23 wind points

IRA
2 × 3 + 61 = 67 wind points

SURI
9 × 4 + 42 = 78 wind points

EMIL
3 × 5 + 76 = 91 wind points

JONAH
9 × 6 + 22 = 76 wind points

JADA
7 × 9 + 20 = 83 wind points

~~**JORI**~~
8 × 2 + 5 = 21 wind points

KENJI
2 × 3 + 83 = 89 wind points

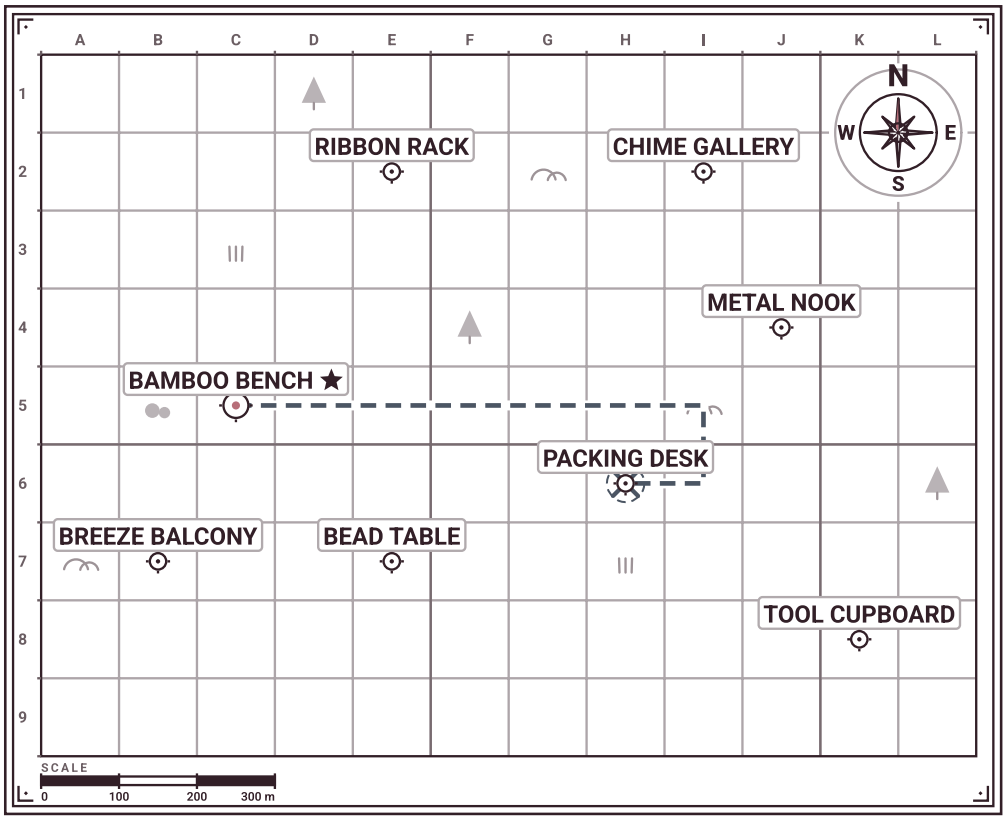
Rules out: CAMILA, JORI

CLUE 2 OF 5

MAPS & SCALE

TRACE THE GEAR TRAIL

Track the bicycle trail until it ends at the culprit's hiding spot, then cross off every suspect found somewhere else.



THE TRAIL

Start at the BAMBOO BENCH ★

1. Go 6 × 50 m EAST	= 300
2. Go 5 × 60 m EAST	= 300
3. Go 4 × 25 m SOUTH	= 100
4. Go 88 + 12 m WEST	= 100

WHO WAS SEEN WHERE?

~~CAMILA~~	RIBBON RACK
SURI	PACKING DESK
JONAH	PACKING DESK
~~JORI~~	BEAD TABLE
~~IRA~~	METAL NOOK
EMIL	PACKING DESK
JADA	PACKING DESK
KENJI	PACKING DESK

The trail ends at the PACKING DESK — rules out: IRA

CLUE 3 OF 5

COORDINATES & GRIDS

SCAN THE WORKSHOP GRID

Scan the gear room until the scanner locks a sector that names the badge, then cross off every suspect who has the wrong badge.

SOLVE THE READINGS

A. 7 + 1 = **8**

B. 1 + 1 = **2**

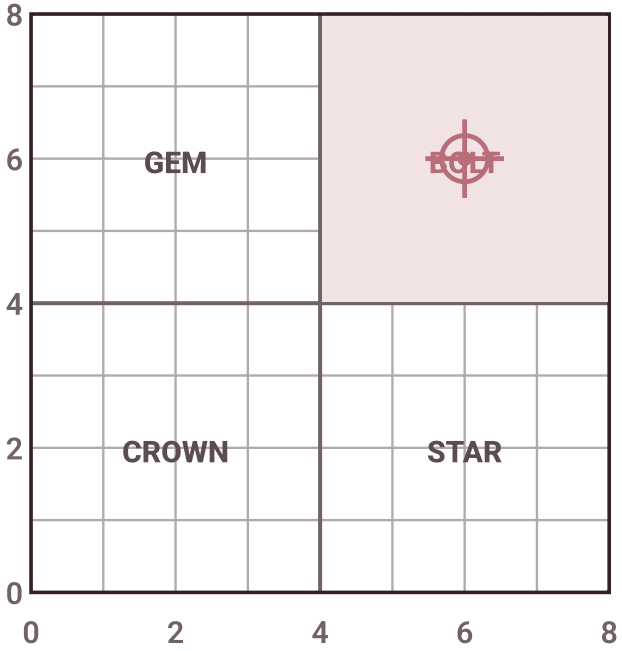
C. 2 + 2 = **4**

D. 3 + 1 = **4**

E. 1 + 4 = **5**

F. 2 + 1 = **3**

PLOT THE BEACON



NOW FIND THE POINT

x = A + B - C = **6**

y = D + E - F = **6**

(6, 6) lands on BOLT — rules out: EMIL

CLUE 4 OF 5

ELAPSED TIME

TIME THE ROBOT TEST

Witnesses cleared everyone who left early. Cross off every suspect who finished BEFORE 1:00 PM!

WHEN DID EACH SUSPECT FINISH?

Camila started a science club at 4:30 PM. It lasted 30 minutes. Finish time: ___ **5:00 PM**

✓ *4:30 PM + 30 minutes = 5:00 PM*

~~Suri started a swimming class at 10:30 AM. It lasted 105 minutes. Finish time: ___~~ **12:15 PM**

✓ *10:30 AM + 105 minutes = 12:15 PM*

Jonah started an art workshop at 2:00 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ **3:30 PM**

✓ *2:00 PM + 90 minutes = 3:30 PM*

Jori started a dance class at 12:45 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ **2:15 PM**

✓ *12:45 PM + 90 minutes = 2:15 PM*

Ira started a swimming class at 1:30 PM. It lasted 75 minutes. Finish time: ___ **2:45 PM**

✓ *1:30 PM + 75 minutes = 2:45 PM*

Emil started a baking session at 3:15 PM. It lasted 90 minutes. Finish time: ___ **4:45 PM**

✓ *3:15 PM + 90 minutes = 4:45 PM*

Jada started soccer practice at 12:45 PM. It lasted 60 minutes. Finish time: ___ **1:45 PM**

✓ *12:45 PM + 60 minutes = 1:45 PM*

Kenji started soccer practice at 3:15 PM. It lasted 75 minutes. Finish time: ___ **4:30 PM**

✓ *3:15 PM + 75 minutes = 4:30 PM*

Rules out: SURI

CLUE 5 OF 5

MONEY MATH

UNLOCK THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

E. $10.95 + $2.45 = **$13.40**

U. $1.80 − $0.95 = **$0.85**

Y. $9.65 + $3.40 = **$13.05**

R. $4.05 + $3.45 = **$7.50**

H. $11.35 + $1.30 = **$12.65**

P. $27.00 − $14.40 = **$12.60**

C. $6.70 + $1.20 = **$7.90**

T. $31.80 + $5.75 = **$37.55**

K. $31.50 + $20.95 = **$52.45**

I. $19.70 + $9.80 = **$29.50**

S. $4.65 + $3.30 = **$7.95**

A. $32.35 + $1.45 = **$33.80**

L. $2.60 − $1.70 = **$0.90**

CRACK THE CODE

Write each problem's letter in every box that shows its answer.
Self-check: if the boxes spell a real clue sentence, your math is correct!

T	H	E		C	U	L	P	R	I	T
$37.55	$12.65	$13.40		$7.90	$0.85	$0.90	$12.60	$7.50	$29.50	$37.55

P	L	A	Y	S		C	R	I	C	K	E	T
$12.60	$0.90	$33.80	$13.05	$7.95		$7.90	$7.50	$29.50	$7.90	$52.45	$13.40	$37.55

Rules out: JADA, KENJI

CASE #01 · WIND-CHIME WORKSHOP · SOLUTION

CASE REPORT

The bamboo chime vanished from the bamboo bench. You worked the clues, detective — time to name the culprit.

FINAL CHECK

- ☒ CAMILA · the Metal shaper
- ☒ SURI · the Ribbon weaver
- ☑ **JONAH · the Bamboo carver**
- ☒ JORI · the Bead sorter
- ☒ IRA · the Parcel packer
- ☒ EMIL · the Balcony sweeper
- ☒ JADA · the Garden listener
- ☒ KENJI · the Master tuner

THE CULPRIT IS: JONAH

SOLVED!

HOW IT WAS SOLVED

Clue 1 cleared CAMILA & JORI. Clue 2 cleared IRA. Clue 3 cleared EMIL. Clue 4 cleared SURI. Clue 5 cleared JADA & KENJI. Only JONAH was left standing — that's the culprit!

SECRET LETTER for The Final Mystery → T

CASE CLOSED

Ready for another case?

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